

Message Text

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44

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EURE-00 VO-03 CIAE-00 FBIE-00 INSE-00

NSAE-00 EB-11 L-03 INR-10 RSC-01 DRC-01 /055 W

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P R 261607Z OCT 73

FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 3436

INFO USDOC WASHDC

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COMMERCE FOR MARAD

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ETRN UR US

SUBJ: US-USSR MARITIME AGREEMENT: AMTORG STAFF INCREASE

REF: A) STATE 210160; B) UNCLAS TELEGRAM FROM MARAD TO
ZEN/ MORFLOT MOSCOW, OCT 24

1. ECON COUNSELLOR DELIVERED TEXT OF BLACKWELL MESSAGE (REF B)
TO IGOR AVERIN OF MINISTRY OF MARITIME FLEET OCT 26. WHILE
GENERALLY PLEASED WITH CONTENT MESSAGE, AVERIN MADE FOLLOWING
POINTS DURING CONVERSATION:

A) MINISTRY REACTION WILL BE TRANSMITTED TO EMBASSY ASAP,
CERTAINLY WITHIN NEXT TWO WEEKS. AVERIN IS SPEAKING PURELY
UNOFFICIALLY AND FOR HIMSELF ALONE.

B) WHILE LONG AWAITED, INCREASE IS WELCOME AND WILL HELP
MAKE POSSIBLE SORTING OUT CURRENT DISPARITY IN USE AMERICAN
AND SOVIET VESSELS FOR CARGOES SENT TO USSR. MINISTRY IS
GRAVELY CONCERNED ABOUT THIS, HAVING TRIED VARIOUS SUGGESTIONS
BROUGHT UP BY BLACKWELL AND AVERIN WITHOUT SOLVING THE BASIC PROBLEM.

C) PRACTICALLY SPEAKING, LIMITATION OF MARITIME FLEET
REPRESENTATIVES IN U.S. TO FIVE SOVIET CITIZENS IS NO PROBLEM
AT PRESENT BUT IS POTENTIALLY TROUBLESOME. FURTHER DEVELOPMENT
OF TRADE WILL BRING ABOUT SHIPPING INCREASES BEYOND THE
CAPACITY OF A FIVE-MAN SOVIET STAFF IN NEW YORK. ISSUE IS NOT
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URGENT BUT WILL NEED REVIEW IN FUTURE.

D) PARAGRAPH D IN BLACKWELL MESSAGE WILL NEED CLARIFICATION. MARITIME FLEET MINISTRY WISHES TO KNOW PRECISELY WHAT TYPES OF FACILITATION ARE ENVISIONED IN THIS CONTEXT. AVERIN COMMENTED THAT MINISTRY WOULD OF COURSE DO ITS BEST TO HELP, BUT THAT IT COULD NOT MAKE COMMITMENT TO BUILD SEAMEN'S HAVEN, FOR EXAMPLE. AVERIN WILL RAISE THIS ISSUE WITH BLACKWELL DURING WASHINGTON MEETING IN NOVEMBER.

E) MINISTRY DOES NOT NOW KNOW WHETHER LUGOVTSOV, ZABUSOV AND SHCHERBAKOV WILL BE THREE INDIVIDUALS ASSIGNED TO SHIPPING SPECIALIST POSITIONS SINCE LAST APRIL WHEN VISAS WERE REQUESTED, TWO HAVE TAKEN OTHER JOBS (ONE COMMANDING MERCHANT SHIP, ANOTHER TEACHING) FROM WHICH THEY MAY NOT BE FREE FOR IMMEDIATE FUTURE. MINISTRY WILL INFORM EMBASSY EARLY NEXT WEEK ON THIS QUESTION.

2. EMBASSY ASSUMES THAT IF ONE OR MORE OF THREE SOVIET CITIZENS MENTIONED PARA 1(E) ABOVE WISHES TRAVEL IN NEXT FEW DAYS, VISA MAY BE ISSUED WITHOUT FURTHER REFERRAL TO DEPT.

3. AVERIN MENTIONED THAT HE WILL HEAD SOVIET DELEGATION FOR MARITIME TALKS WASHINGTON IN NOVEMBER BUT THAT HE WILL NOT ARRIVE WITH OTHER MEMBERS NOV 11. AS CHIEF OF ANOTHER SOV DELEGATION, AVERIN WILL SPEND WEEK NOV 11-18 IN GENEVA AND WILL TRAVEL TO WASHINGTON NOV 18. HE EXPECTS REMAIN WASHINGTON NOV 18-25 BUT WILL CONFIRM SPECIFIC ARRANGEMENTS BY TELEGRAM TO ASST SEC BLACKWELL WITHIN NEXT FEW DAYS.
DUBS

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 26 OCT 1973
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: garlanwa
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973MOSCOW13456
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: n/a
From: MOSCOW
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t1973109/aaaaagpi.tel
Line Count: 90
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: A) STATE 210160; B) UNCLAS TELEGRAM, FROM MARAD TO
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: garlanwa
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 28 SEP 2001
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <28-Sep-2001 by willialc>; APPROVED <05-Dec-2001 by garlanwa>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: US-USSR MARITIME AGREEMENT: AMTORG STAFF INCREASE
TAGS: ETRN, UR, US
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005